WHIRRAKEE

November 2002 Vol. 23 No.10

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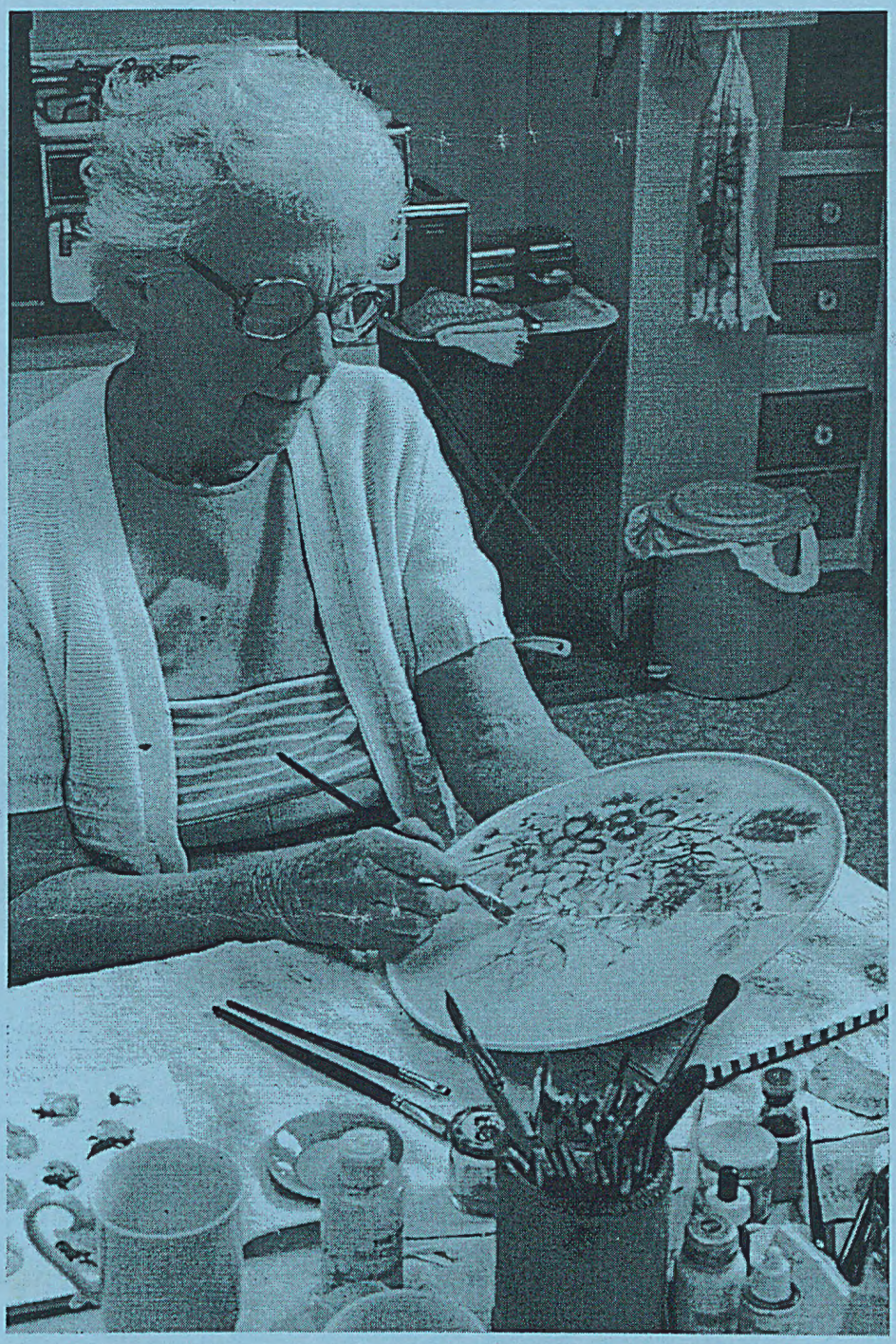

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552

Office Bearers for 2002 - 2003

President	Rob Moors	Mandurang South Rd.	5439 6254
Senior Vice President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Junior Vice President	position not filled		
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
Minute Secretary	Jan Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Treasurer	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Rd. Sedgwick	5439 6254
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	John Green	4/34 Eaglehawk Rd, Bendigo	5443 6756
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members: Barbara Pelczynska, Bob Ruddick, Maurie Stone, Stuart Fraser.

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has two active sub-groups:

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizen Building.

Front Cover: Photographer: Rob Watkins

This photo shows Evelyn Leamon pursuing one her favourite hobbies (in her kitchen ...and it's not cooking). She was a life member of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club and co-author of the club's most popular publication 'Wildflowers of Bendigo'. Evelyn died in July and this issue of the *Whirrakee* is dedicated to her (see article on page 3).

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 23, No. 10, November 2002

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editors' Note
We are very privileged this month to get, in this issue, a copy of 'Fabulous Fabaceae', a key produced by Frances Cincotta for our local pea plants. Some of these are very difficult to identify and there is an extra key for the 'trickiest' ones. I squeezed this key in this month's edition as there are still a few pea flowers left if people want to give this a go. Frances welcomes comments by users! Unfortunately, the printing machine makes the Whirrakee on A4 sheets these days, so I had to cut the pictorial key down the middle. I just hope it hasn't lost too much in the process. The write up for last month's excellent talk by Neil Marriot about Grevillea hunting will thus appear next month. Please remember, if you want to advertise anything for the January period, that the next edition will be the last one for the year and the first one in 2003 is not out till February.

Evelyn Leamon

Evelyn Leamon joined the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club in 1967. She was interested in all aspects of natural history but was particularly fond of 'her' wildflowers and birds.

She loved the excursions we had in those early days of the club and attended virtually all outings and activities until her health made this difficult in recent years.

Ev took on the position of Assistant Secretary in the early 1970s when Peter Ellis was Secretary and conservation matters had become critical and controversial, particularly relating to the Whipstick. Her ability to take minutes in shorthand was invaluable in assisting Peter. Minutes of both the committee and general meeting were distributed to members to keep them in touch with the Club's decision making process and streamline meeting procedure. Ev was constantly busy typing these as well as submissions about the Whipstick, Jackass Flat, Salomon Gully and other proposed reserves. Substantial submissions, even with numerous corrections and re-runs, never seemed to be any trouble to Ev.

When the conservation issue diminished she directed her efforts to the production of a newsletter including club activities and nature articles. These green publications were to bridge the gap between the cessation of production of The Bendigo Naturalist and the establishment of Whirrakee.

Evelyn was a devoted member of the Bird Observer's Group of our Club and was its Secretary for many years. During one term Ev was Club Vice-president and terrified of the possibility of having to chair a General Meeting if Rob should be absent but she did have an adventurous streak which led her to travel both overseas and within Australia. On one occasion she excitedly encouraged Rob to ford the deep water of the Dargo River.

Evelyn had a vision which culminated in the production of Wildflowers of Bendigo. Jane Cleary worked enthusiastically with Ev towards its publication. Ev insisted that the photos of the plants be as you would view them rather than as enlarged close-ups. She considered the production of this booklet to be her most important contribution to our Club and it continues to be a most valuable resource for naturalists, students and anyone with an interest in our local flora.

Her nature interests were amalgamated with her artistic ability in her love of china painting and she produced beautiful pieces illustrated with native flowers, birds and animals.

Evelyn's work and long dedication to the Club was recognised by her being awarded Life Membership. This made her very proud in her modest way.

Evelyn's passing on July 24, 2002 marks a sad point in our Club's history.

Compiled by Glenise & Rob Moors and Peter Ellis.
Photograph by Rob Watkins

Apology to our Club's Librarian

I would like to apologise for not including the Club's library in my President's report in September (published in the October *Whirrakee*). I am very sorry for omitting the very important contribution the library makes to our Club. I would also like to acknowledge the amount of work done by Diana and John in organising the books and periodicals over many year. The library has a lot of periodicals from a number of conservation organisations and it is a pity that not many members borrow them. However, I am sure that all members do appreciate the work done by Diana, John and others that helped to make the library useable. Thanks to all who helped.

Barbara Pelczynska

Poster Display at Bendigo's World Masters Games - Orienteering

by Barbara Pelczynska

The 'Biggest Multi-Sport Festival On Earth', the Masters Games, was held in Australia and the orienteering event was held in Bendigo from 5th to 13th October in St Andrews Uniting Church Hall. The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club had a display of posters in the foyer of the Church hall. Well over 1000 people took part and saw the display of beautiful plants and animals of the Box-Ironbark Forest. The hall was decorated with Australian native flowers and the posies for the winning competitors were made of native flowers as well. It was a great success and our display was greatly appreciated by the organisers who asked me to convey their thanks to the Club.

September Bird Observations

A pair of spotted Quail Thrush were observed by Max Stevens, in Marong State Forest on 19 September. This species is rarely seen in our Box-Ironbark Forest around Bendigo now.

Glenise Moors observed a Tawny-crowned Honeyeater in willow in a private garden off Lansell Street on 28 Oct.

Greenhood 'Hijacking'

From: Australian Plants online September 2002 (by Brian Walters ed.)

"Botanical 'terrorists' strip Australia of naming rights to local orchids" was the headline to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald of September14-15 September 2002.

The story concerned the renaming of dozens of Australian native orchids by a Polish scientist, Professor Dariusz Szlachetko of Gdansk University. Professor Dariusz and his team have apparently based their publication solely on specimens located in European herbaria without studying the orchids in the field and ignoring work being carried out by Australian scientists.

Renaming species in the genus *Pterostylis* (greenhoods) has caused a deal of justifiable anger among Australian researchers who have spent considerable time and effort in the field and who are using DNA techniques to help separate the various species.

Another concern is that the actions of the European botanists may spark a naming race which could force the Australian scientists to publish incomplete work.

Bridal Creeper – Integrated Control Techniques

Bridal Creeper is one of the fasted spreading weeds in the region and has the potential to cause serious economic and ecological losses if left uncontrolled.

Seminar by Dr Raelene Kwong, leader, biocontrol Services Team, Keith Turnbull Institute.
7.30pm Tuesday 10th December,
Ray Bradfield Room, Castlemaine (off Midland Highway between IGA Carpark and Victory Park)
presented by 'Friends of the Box Ironbark Forest' and Mt Alexander Shire Council.
For further information or dates on biocontrol release contact
Project Manager Morgan Kurrajong 54706394 or morgan@ko.inspired.net.au

Some Good Bacteria

From *Gumnuts* (A newsletter for subscribers to Australian Plants online) Number 48 - September 2002
by
The Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants
http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/

CSIRO Plant Industry is helping to 're-green' Australia by using soil bacteria to establish healthier native trees more quickly.

Dr Peter Thrall and his team have identified significant benefits associated with growing trees from seeds coated, or 'inoculated', with a peat-based substance containing specific strains of naturally occurring soil bacteria.
"When you look at a cleared agricultural landscape you can see there is often little or no natural vegetation left," Dr Thrall says.
"But what is not so obvious is that there is a huge diversity of soil organisms under the ground that may also be lost."

Many plants - including Australian natives such as Acacias - grow in 'symbiotic' or mutually beneficial relationships with a range of soil organisms.
"In preliminary glasshouse and field trials we have found that Acacias inoculated with beneficial strains of a nitrogen-fixing bacteria called *Bradyrhizobium* survive better and grow faster than un-inoculated Acacias," Dr Thrall says.
When the inoculated seed germinates and starts to grow, the bacteria form nodules on the plant's roots. These nodules take nitrogen from the air, which plants cannot use, and 'fix' it in the soil in a form they can use.
"It is this extra nitrogen, 'fixed' in the soil by the Acacias, that helps them grow better by effectively fertilising them," Dr Thrall says.
"Furthermore, we have found that other plants growing near to inoculated Acacias, such as eucalypts, grow much better too."

But not all strains of *Bradyrhizobium* promote plant growth - some may have a negative effect. Also, different strains of *Bradyrhizobium* will have different effects depending on the species of Acacia they are associated with.

Dr Thrall and his team have been analysing soil samples collected from native remnant vegetation patches to see what types of bacteria are present and sort the helpful strains from the harmful ones. As a result, several 'elite' strains of bacteria have been identified that have been used to inoculate a number of Acacia species for a large-scale field trial.

With Greening Australia Victoria's help, eight sites on different farms in the Bendigo region have been directly sown with Acacia seed inoculated with *Bradyrhizobium* to assess its effect on tree health and performance.
Each site has also been planted with a range of local native species to assess the effect on them too.
"Sowing native plant seed direct into the soil is a cost-effective and practical way of establishing trees," says Mr David Millsom, Greening Australia Victoria.
"If survival rates and vigour of direct seeded trees can be improved by inoculating tree seed with bacteria then this would be a huge help to landholders wanting to replant large areas of their properties to native vegetation."

"It is exciting to think that our knowledge of revegetation is extending beneath the soil surface to re-establish not only trees and other above-ground plants, but beneficial soil organisms too," Mr Millsom says.

According to Dr Thrall, the results from the trials will improve our understanding of the relationships between plants and bacteria.

"They will also help us to identify the best strains of bacteria to inoculate seed with," Dr Thrall says.

"This project represents a significant step towards improving native plant revegetation and restoring biodiversity."

This project is a collaboration between CSIRO Plant Industry and Greening Australia Victoria with substantial on-ground support from the North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

FABULOUS FABACEAE

indigenous pea-flowered plants found in the Bendigo - Maldon - Castlemaine - Newstead area

1. Bossiaea buxifolia	MATTED BOSSIAEA
2. Bossiaea prostrata	CREEPING BOSSIAEA
3. Daviesia benthamii ssp. humilis	SPINY BITTER PEA
4. Daviesia genistifolia	BROOM BITTER PEA
5. Daviesia leptophylla	NARROW-LEAF BITTER PEA
6. Daviesia ulicifolia	GORSE BITTER PEA
7. Desmodium varians	SLENDER TICK-TREFOIL
8. Dillwynia cinerascens	GREY PARROT PEA
9. Dillwynia glaberrima	SMOOTH PARROT PEA
10. Dillwynia hispida	RED PARROT PEA
11. Dillwynia phylicoides	SMALL-LEAF PARROT PEA
12. Dillwynia ramosissima	BUSHY PARROT PEA
13. Dillwynia sericea	SHOWY PARROT PEA
14. Eutaxia microphylla	COMMON EUTAXIA
15. Glycine clandestina	TWINING GLYCINE
16. Glycine latrobeana	CLOVER GLYCINE
17. Glycine tabacina	VARIABLE GLYCINE
18. Gompholobium huegeli	COMMON WEDGE PEA
19. Hardenbergia violacea	PURPLE CORAL PEA
20. Hovea pannosa	MOUNTAIN BEAUTY
21. Hovea heterophylla syn. H. linearis	COMMON HOVEA
22. Indigofera australis	AUSTRAL INDIGO
23. Kennedya prostrata	RUNNING POSTMAN
24. Platylobium formosum	HANDSOME FLAT PEA
25. Podolobium procumbens syn. Oxylobium procumbens	TRAILING SHAGGY PEA
26. Pultenaea daphnoides	LARGE LEAF BUSH PEA
27. Pultenaea graveolens	SCENTED BUSH PEA
28 Pultenaea humilis	DWARF BUSH PEA
29 Pultenaea largiflorens	TWIGGY BUSH PEA
30. Pultenaea laxiflora	LOOSE-FLOWERED BUSH PEA
31. Pultenaea pedunculata	MATTED BUSH PEA
32. Pultenaea platyphylla	FLAT-LEAF BUSH PEA
33. Swainsona behriana	SOUTHERN SWAINSON-PEA
34. Templetonia stenophylla	LEAFY TEMPLETONIA
35. Viminaria juncea	GOLDEN SPRAY

START HERE! with specimen in hand of a

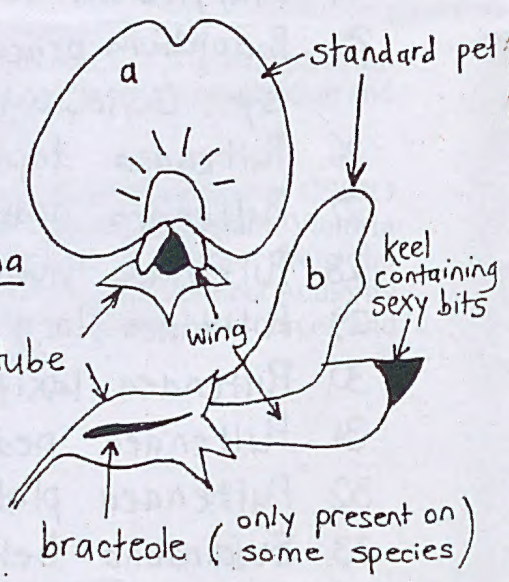
FABULOUS

Leaves compound (made up of leaflets)

- Leaves pinnate (leaflets arranged on opposite sides of a common rachis)
  - Shrub 1–2m tall pink flowers → Indigofera australis
  - Prostrate perennial herb to 150mm tall, purple flowers → Swainsona behriana
- Leaves trifoliate (3 leaflets per leaf)
  - flowers yellow → Gompholobium huegelii
  - flowers red purple or m
    - flowers red → Kennedya prostrata
    - flov pink, or
  - 3 leaflets all attached equally on the leaf stem
    - flowers purple or mauve, Veins in leaflets not sunken
      - stems trailing, not twining, flowers purple, Leaflets circular → Glycine latrobeana
      - stems twining, flowers mauve, leaflets fairly linear → Glycine clandestina
    - flowers pink, Veins in leaflets sunken → Desmodium varians
  - central o is on → Glyci

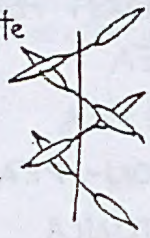
PRODUCED BY FRANCES CINCOTTA
SEPTEMBER 2002
COMMENTS WELCOMED ph. 5476 2691

The only publications I know of that describe all these 35 species are "Flora of Victoria vol. 3" @ $300 or "A Fieldguide To Native Peaflowers of Victoria and Southeastern Australia" @ ~$10 (Kangaroo Press + SGAP NSW)



PARTS of a PEA FLOWER a front v b side v

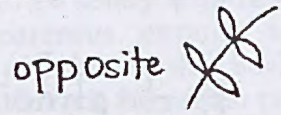
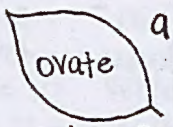
* decussate

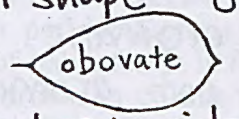


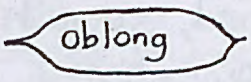
Successive pairs of opposite leaves are set at right angles to each other

FABACEAE from the Bendigo area (KEY 1)

- leaves simple
  - adult leaves opposite
    - Leaves small (< 6 mm) crowded & decussate; veins not visible
      - Eutaxia microphylla
    - Leaves > 14 mm well-spaced & net-veined
      - leaves cordate 20 – 50 mm long
        - Platylobium formosum
      - leaves ovate to oblong, 15-20 mm long, with wavy margins
        - Podolobium procumbens
  - adult leaves alternate
    - Leaf ovate to obovate in shape
      - Hardenbergia violacea
    - Leaves not ovate or obovate
      - flowers mauve or purple
        - 2m shrub
          - Hovea pannosa
        - <1m shrub
          - Hovea heterophylla
      - flowers in red-orange-yellow-brown range
      - visible stipules: pair of small appendages at base of leaf stalk (or at leaf base if no stalk)
        - Calyx tube not hairy
          - 1m to 5m shrub erect stems, drooping branches
            - Viminaria juncea
          - small, straggling shrub with spreading stems
            - Templetonia stenophylla
        - Calyx tube hairy
          - pod flat containing 5+ seeds
            - branches stiff crowded leaves
              - Bossiaea buxifolia
            - branches slender scattered leaves
              - Bossiaea prostrata
          - pod egg-shaped, <5mm diameter containing 1 or 2 seeds
            - Pultenaea 7 species → go to key 2 overleaf.
      - no stipules
        - Leaves taste bitter
          - Daviesia 4 species → go to key 2 overleaf.
        - Leaves don't taste bitter
          - Dillwynia 6 species → go to key 2 overleaf.





KEY 2: The Trickiest "Egg & Bacon" Pea Flowers

PULTENAEA (Bush Peas)

1. Shrub - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 2
   Groundcover - - - - - - - - P. pedunculata
2. Leaves < 20mm long - - - - - - - - - - 3
   Leaves 20mm-30mm long - - - P. daphnoides
3. Leaves hairy - - - - - - - - - - - - 4
   Leaves not hairy - - - - - - - - - - 6
4. Leaves aromatic - - - - - P. graveolens
   Leaves not aromatic - - - - - - - - - 5
5. Leaves scattered, stipules 2mm long - P. largiflorens
   Leaves crowded, stipules 1mm long - P. humilis
6. Leaves 10-20mm long, 3-6mm wide - P. platyphylla
   Leaves 5-10mm long, 1mm wide - P. laxiflora

DILLWYNIA (Parrot Peas)

1. Flowers arising singly, or paired in leaf axils - - - 2
   Flowers in racemes or clusters - - - - - - 3
2. Branches stiff, spine-tipped, smooth - D. ramosissima
   Branches hairy, not spine-tipped - D. sericea
3. Leaves twisted - - - - - - - D. phylicoides
   Leaves straight - - - - - - - - - - - 4
4. Flowers red - - - - - - - - D. hispida
   Flowers orange & red or yellow & red - - - - - - 5
5. Flowers on a long stalk to 20mm, bright green leaves - D. glaberrima
   Flowers not on a long stalk, leaves grey - D. cinerascens

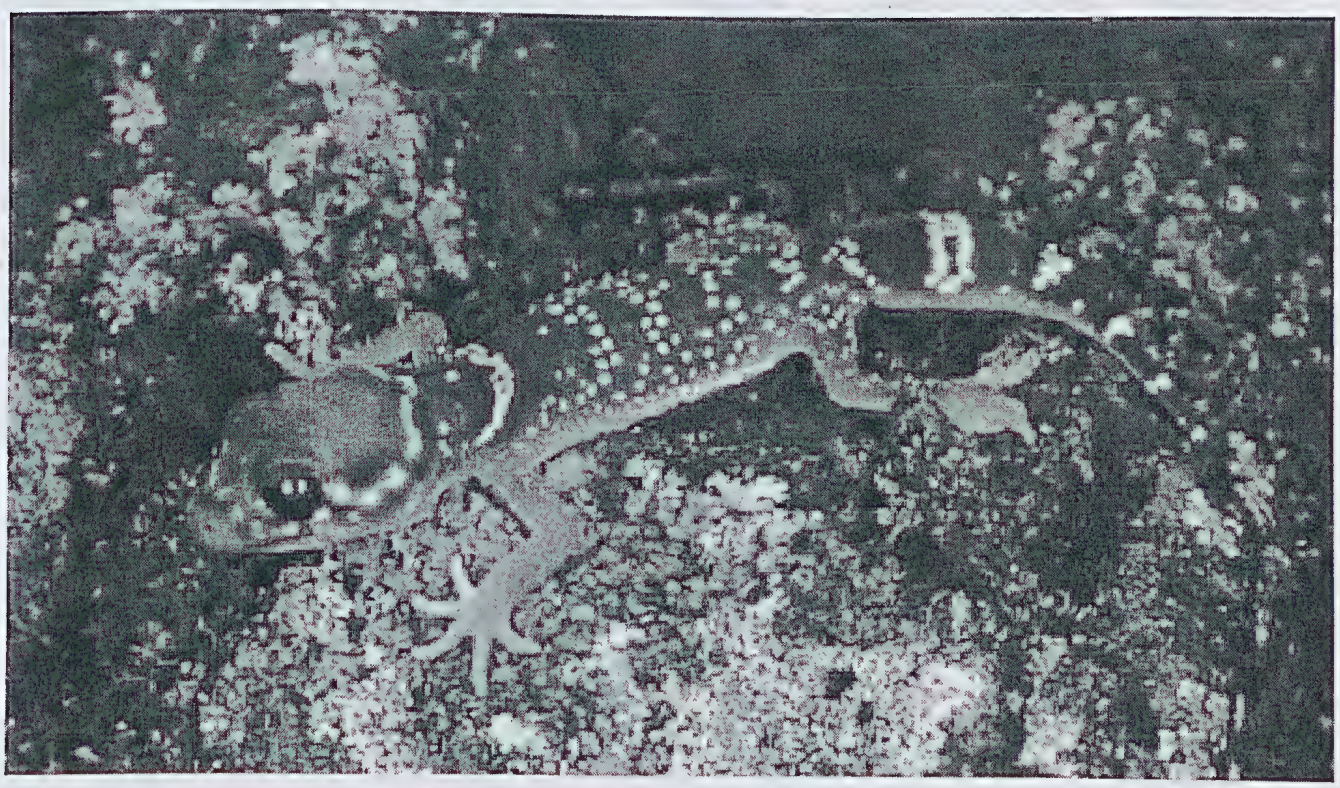
DAVIESIA (Bitter Peas)

1. Leaves cylindrical and spiny - - - - - - - - 2
   Leaves flat - - - - - - - - - - - - - 3
2. Leaf has noticeable line of demarcation from stem D. genistifolia
   Leaf continous with the tissue of the stem
   (so appear like short lateral branchlets) - - D. benthamii ssp. humilis
3. Leaves narrow-lanceolate, much shorter at top of plant
   Upright shrub, with long, upright branches - D. leptophylla
   Leaves long-narrow to broad-ovate ending in a long tip
   Rounded, stiff, much-branched shrub - - - D. ulicifolia

Fauna Study Group Report
Mt Alexander Excursion

Sunday 29 September 2002. What initially looked to be a wet and stormy day, actually turned out to be sunny with fair weather. For those adventurous enough to leave their armchairs and brave the bush, this year's excursion to Mount Alexander promised to be a rewarding experience. Fourteen people in all turned out for lunch and a leisurely stroll in a wooded area near the koala park. This area was dotted with granite rocks and fallen timber, which were homes to a number of animals. Centipedes were the most numerous, although plenty of millipedes were also seen. Even a mole cricket was discovered under a rock. We saw a good number of Spotted Grass Frogs (*Lymnodynastes tasmaniensis*) and Garden Skinks (*Lampropholis guichenoti*). The skinks ranged from juveniles through to adults. Also present, and buried in the loose soil beneath the rocks, were Bougainville's Skink (*Lerista bougainvillii*). Perhaps the highlight of the day was seeing the Thick-tailed Gecko (*Underwoodisaurus millii*) and the Little Whip Snake (*Suta flagellum*). Those plants in flower include Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*), Pink Fingers (*Caladenia catenata*), and Purple Coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*). Furthermore, it is always good to see the Tall Sundew (*Drosera peltata*) and Scented Sundew (*Drosera whittakeri*). Many birds could be heard calling, but who wants to look at them (only joking). Several enthusiastic people finished off the day with a walk around the Koala Park, while the remainder enjoyed a cuppa, cake and chat.

The photo below (taken by Darren Green) shows the
Thick Tailed Gecko, *Underwoodisaurus milii*
This is one of the reptiles encountered on the excursion to Mt Alexander.
A medium sized gecko found throughout the southern part of Bendigo district in a wide variety of habitats. It is dark purplish black to reddish brown in colour with numerous small white or yellow spots tending to be arranged in rows across the back and tail. The original tail is a broad carrot shape and specimens are often found with regenerated tails, usually a pale orange in colour. Adults may reach 80mm (measured from from the tip of the snout to the vent). Females lay two parchment-shelled eggs after spring mating.
Juveniles are often encountered under small rocks in open areas. Generally, *U.milii* shelters beneath rocks, fallen timber, beneath bark at the base of stumps and in burrows during the day. They emerge at night to forage for insects which make up their diet. They are normally a shy gecko, however, when provoked it will make a threatening "barking" noise to deter predators.
These geckos are common in granite outcrops where they may be heard scurrying across leaf litter before they are seen in the torch light. For more information on this lizard see *Whirrakee* 22(5):5-6.



From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

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NATURE AUSTRALIA(Aust. Museum)
Spring 2002

"The Burden of Beauty" by Anne Peters reveals the complex social life of the Superb Fairy-wren which includes cooperative breeding. Often one or more male helpers share the territory with the breeding pair and help with parenting. However, female Fairy-wrens often look outside the family group to find the best genetic mate.

"Masters of Mimicry" by Mark Norman describes the remarkable Mimic Octopus, a recent discovery in Indonesian waters. Strikingly patterned in black and white, the octopus uses this characteristic to mimic the shape and movement of other sea creatures in the area.

"The Other Brushtail Possum" by Karen Viggers & David Lindenmayer reports on an ongoing study of the Mountain Brushtail Possum in Victoria's Mountain Ash forest near Marysville. Details are given of the differences between the Common and Mountain Brushtails. It has been discovered that many of the latter are long lived, some having been tagged in an earlier study in the 1970s.

"Ant Wars" by Tim Low is a disturbing account of the Red Fire Ant infestations which have occurred in Queensland. This ant is described as "arguably the worst pest ever to blight Australia's shores: an eco-villain that could outdo even the fox and rabbit".

"Rare and Endangered": little is known about the Green Sawfish, thought to be declining around Australia's coastal areas.

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THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST(FNCV)
June and August 2002

These two editions are subtitled "Murray River Special Issue Parts One and Two" and deal with many aspects of the Murray ecosystem.

Part One: June

- National Parks and Reserves on the Murray River: an historical perspective
- Floodplain Wetlands: the jewels of the Murray River
- Habitat Change in River Red Gum Floodplains
- Vertebrate Fauna of Barmah Forest
- Rivers as Ecological Systems: the Murray-Darling Basin

Part Two: August

- Fish of the Murray River
- Invertebrates of the River Red Gum Forests of the Murray River
- The Swamp Yabby
- Murray River Microfauna

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Also received recently:

*Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC)
October 2002

*Ballarat Naturalist(BFNC)
October 2002

*Geelong Naturalist(GFNC)
October 2002

*Environment Victoria News
October 2002

*Field Nats News(FNCV)
October 2002

*Volunteer(Threatened Bird Network)
September 2002

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Flora for Fauna.....a further development
in a further development on the exchange with regards to the Australian version of 'Flora for Fauna', Stan Pelczynski wrote to the Gould League, objecting to the notion that the plants recommended for planting are indigenous to their respective areas. Stan pointed out that for the Bendigo region, only 2 out of the 109 plants listed are actually indigenous to the local area. After the second letter to this effect, the thrust of Stan's comments had become clear and the general manager of the Gould League, Jim Grant, has written that he will take action to correct the mistake immediately.....

Talking about the importance of planting indigenous plants, the article below gives food for thought...

Birds Nesting with People

Author: Alf Howe

On Saturday 10th August 2002, I was driving along Plumridge Street White Hills when from the main road, after crossing over the Bendigo Creek, a pair of Wood Ducks flew into a huge Elm tree. A bit further along another Wood Duck flew into a similar tree.
I went to visit a friend in Hennewell Street and he told me that four Wood Ducks had nested there for the last five years. The trees had been lopped creating a hollow centre.

Thinking about the observation afterwards, there has to be a story about birds adapting to human habitation. Around White Hills, Blue-faced Honeyeaters nesting in a type of palm in two separate gardens. New Holland Honeyeaters at the local nursery and feeding on exotic garden plants.
Up on the farm at Calivil, native birds nested in all sorts of exotic trees and shrubs, and odd places, like Kookaburras nesting between the bales in the haystack, Willie Wagtails and welcome Swallows in a machinery shed. Crested Pigeons in fruit trees and Athel trees (Tamarisk). The latter also provided nesting sites for a Rufous Whistler, Magpies, Magpie Larks, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Dusky Woodswallows, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Australian Ravens and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. Barking Owls and Southern Boobooks roosted in Athel Trees and Willows.
Superb Blue wrens nested in the Grape vine, bignonia creeper and smilax, a White-plumed honeyeater under the verandah in the jasmine creeper. South African Boxthorns were used by Zebra finches and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. These also used big spear thistles. Ground birds nested in perennial grasses, Richards Pipit, Brown Songlark, Golden-headed Cisticola, White-fronted chats, Stubble Quail, Black Ducks and Singing Bush-larks.
Box-thorn grew in places along the Dingee-Mitiamo domestic channel. Magpies, Ravens and the odd Brown Falcon nested on the tops.
While we are worrying about getting back to indigenous plants and trees around farms, cities, towns, ecology and biodiversity, like history, is moving on.

People's Relation to Landscape
Case Study - Box Ironbark Forest

Author: Julia Hamer

'I introduced myself at the last club meeting as a Masters student from Melbourne University, looking at people's relation to landscape, and planning to use the Box Ironbark landscape around Bendigo as my case study. I had several interesting conversations with people that same night, and since I'd thought of just making contact on a first night, was really gratified at such an open and quick response. So I came away with food for thought, far earlier than I had expected,

'However I have thought since that I said too little when I spoke to you all and probably created confusion. I said that I hoped to do interviews with various different sorts of people who had an interest in Box Ironbark landscapes, but not till next year. The reasons for that are various, including my inexperience, the necessity for ethics clearance from Melbourne University before interviewing, and the fact that other aspects of the investigation will take up my time for the rest of this year. So what I want to to do this year is to come to meetings and get some idea of the interests and functioning of the BFNC, and to get to know some of you so that you feel easy about the idea of my doing interviews. Quite what form they will take I'm not yet sure.
So thank you for being hospitable and I look forward to meeting more of you.

'Julia Hamer'

VFNCA March Long Weekend Camp March 7 – 11, 2003
Urban Camp Melbourne

Expression of Interest Registration Form
Please circulate widely

Draft Program subject to change. Prices are approximate at this time.

Friday	Afternoon – Bureau of Meteorology Training Centre, Broadmeadows Registration from 4pm at Urban Camp Evening – Welcome, Speaker
Saturday	Full Day - Zoo and behind the scenes approximately $13 Evening – VFNCA AGM 5 pm, Speaker from Zoo.
Sunday	Optional - Aquarium and brief behind scenes approximately $17 and/or Point Cook Wetlands Evening – general meeting if necessary. Speaker
Monday	Botanical Gardens with Friends of the Gardens Evening – Speaker
Tuesday	Morning – Museum of Victoria – behind the scenes and self-guided museum tour approximately $15

Accommodation
Urban Camp – Fully Catered, shared rooms. Approximately $50.00 per day per person
Located in Royal Park, parking available. Public Transport to most venues close by.

A letter with final details will be sent in early January to those who have registered.
Final payment will be due at the end of January.

A deposit of $20.00 per person is required with the expression of interest. Payment made payable by cash/cheque at Ballarat campout or cheque by post. Cheques to be made payable to BFNC Camp Account.

Enquires to Rob and Glenise Moors Ph 03 54396254 or email clachan@impulse.net.au

Please complete below and send deposit prior to 13th December

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Expression of interest - VFNCA Camp March 7 – 11, 2003.

Names_____

Address_____

Phone _____ Email _____ Club_____

Payment of_____

Return to: Rob and Glenise Moors
555 Mandurang South Rd
RSD STRATHFIELDSAYE
Victoria 3551

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2002– Second Wednesday 8:00 pm

Please check each **WHIRRAKEE** for additional events or changes. If a workshop is planned, it will start at 7:00pm. The speaker will be introduced at 8:00 pm.

Date - 2001	Topic	Speaker
13 November	What has been achieved in Waterways Management in the NC Region	Greg Peters
11 December	**Christmas Dinner**	

Further Errata for 'Spiders of Bendigo' by Jenny Shield.

Jenny has recently sent this list of mistakes in her book. Please let us know if you want a printed version of these to stick in your book...

Inside front cover: Drawing 2: Swap labels *femur* and *tibia*
Patella refers to the segment between the femur and the tibia

Page 4: 1 January should be 30 January.

Page 28:Photos 65 and 66 are of *Ambicodamus crinitus* also text p.49
Photo 67 is *Ambicodamus* sp also text p.49
Page 40: Photo 123 is of *Artoria howquaensis* Framenau 2002 also text p.57

Page 41: Photo 125 and 126 are of *Allocosa palabunda* also text p.57
Photo 127 and 128 are of *Venatix speciosa* also text p.57

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 13 7.00pm
There will be a Workshop prior to the main speaker. It will deal with Plant Names - Latin Roots and the BFNC Indigenous Garden, conducted by BFNC botanists.
Greg Peters will then talk at **8.00pm**
about "What has been achieved in Waterways Management in the NC Region"

Wednesday December 11
Christmas Dinner **6.30pm**
At the Hall, Bring Salad, Casserole or Dessert. Come early to chat or look at the garden, then sit down at 6:30, and visit with friends for as long as you like.

Please note: There is no meeting in January

Bird Observers Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. The next meeting is on:

Wednesday, November 6 7.30pm
Topic; Bower birds

Fauna Group

This group meets in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on:

Wednesday, November 27th 7.30pm
Topic: Tiger and eastern Quolls. A discussion with slides lead by Rob and Cynthia Watkins.

Excursions

Wednesday, December 4th 6.00pm
BBQ, spotlighting and frog identification at John Burtonclay's property, Faderson's Lane, Mandurang (ph 54467590 for details)
Bring food, utensils, binoculars, sturdy footwear, torch or spotlight (BBQ, tea and coffee provided).
All welcome!

Christmas lunch meeting at Jack Ipsens
Sunday, December 15

Jack is expecting our members again this year for the annual Christmas meeting at his property near Redesdale.
Please bring all your food and drink as well as a chair (if you need one). There are plenty interesting things to see before you sit down for lunch.
Please contact a committee member if you need instructions how to get there.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

The Tasmanian Experience
by the Australian Naturalists Network

This year's ANN *GetTogether* in Tasmania will be happening November 9-18, 2002. The core program is based in Launceston, with pre-meeting activities centred around the North-East/East Coast (November 6-9) and post-meeting activities around North-West/West Coast (November 19-22).
See April *Whirrakee* for details.

Bridal Creeper Seminar
see page 4.